

Lowery is a co-founder of the Black Leadership Forum—a broad constellation of African-American faith and social justice groups dedicated to carrying on the legacy of Martin Luther King.

Rev. Lowery is a living legend who will remain in the hearts and minds of all of who have been so blessed and fortunate to know him, including his friends, family members, and colleagues in the struggle for human and civil rights. Reverend Lowery was clearly one of the most influential leaders of the civil rights movements. He is a humble and gracious man with a keen sense of humor. He kept so many of us in the civil rights movement motivated, energized, and hopeful regardless of the many serious obstacles we faced as a social justice movement.

Rev. Lowery is married to Evelyn Gibson Lowery, who in her own right is a committed and dedicated civil rights activist. We wish Rev. Lowery and his wife Evelyn Gibson Lowery many more years of happiness, good health, and blessings. America is a stronger, fairer, and more civilized nation because of the decades of work that Rev. Lowery devoted to the noble cause of liberty, freedom, and social justice for all Americans.

IN APPRECIATION OF ISRAEL'S 9/11
MEMORIAL

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary memorial built in Israel in honor of the victims of the September 11th attacks.

On the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, hundreds gathered just outside of Jerusalem to dedicate the 9/11 Living Memorial. This memorial, commissioned and built by the Jewish National Fund-USA/Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael, was designed by Israeli artist Eliezer Weishoff. It depicts a beautiful 30 foot high bronze American flag which rests on a granite base partially composed of metal from the World Trade Center towers and features the name of every victim of the attack.

Honored guests included my colleague, Congressman HENRY WAXMAN, U.S. Ambassador Dan Shapiro, Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, and my friend, Stan Chesley, President of the Jewish National Fund.

While those tragic events occurred here at home, it is important to remember that there were victims from more than 90 countries, including five Israeli citizens.

This memorial will act as an important reminder of the need to remain committed in the fight against terrorism, and why Israel continues to remain one of our strongest allies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Israel for this thoughtful memorial.

HONORING DR. SUNGBAE JU FOR
HIS LIFELONG ACHIEVEMENTS
IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Sungbae Ju, for his exemplary public service and devotion to the performing arts.

Dr. Sungbae Ju is the President of both the Garden State Opera and The Figaro Group, and is an accomplished musician. He holds a Masters Degree from the prestigious Manhattan School of Music, a Doctoral Degree from the Yeshua Theological Seminary and an Honorary Doctor Degree from the Universidad Christiana De Bolivia. He has experienced unmatched levels of professional success, including performances at notable New York and New Jersey performances venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the New Jersey and Bergen Performing Arts Centers. He has also performed in operas including "The Barber of Seville" and "Rigoletto" with singers from the Metropolitan Opera.

Dr. Ju and his family are members of the New Jersey State Opera, and are widely renowned and respected for their numerous recitals to benefit worthy causes throughout the nation. Dr. Ju has always tried to use music as a tool for improving and developing communities. With that in mind, Dr. Ju and others formed the Garden State Opera, Inc., a non-profit organization that aims to unify the community with music in order to aid those in our global community who live without food, hope, human rights and with the threat of disease, terror, poverty and war.

In addition to the Garden State Opera, Dr. Ju and his family have volunteered their musical talents and services at over 130 events, including various holiday concerts and Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Celebrations at the NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police, NJ State Police, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Federal Air Marshal Service in the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Labor Department, Bergen County Public Safety Institute, Honor Legion Police Department and for many Asian and Korean-American communities.

Dr. Ju is also involved with many other cultural organizations throughout Bergen County including his positions as Chairman of the Korean American Day in New Jersey, Event Chairman of Northern-Eastern Korean Festival at New Overpeck Park, and Board Member of the Multi-Cultural Committee in the Bergen County Sheriff's Department. Additionally, he has received a multitude of awards from Members of Congress, the New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly, the Newark and New York divisions of the FBI, the DEA in New Jersey, the TSA, the Federal Air Marshall Service, the U.S. Labor Department, the NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police, the Bergen County Police Chiefs Association, the Ambassador of Taiwan Consul General, and the Bergen County Public Safety Institute.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Sungbae Ju, and thank him for his devotion to the performing arts, the Korean-American community, and the American community at large, both in the great State of New Jersey and across the Nation.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAR IN
AFGHANISTAN

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tenth anniversary of the war with Afghanistan. For ten years our country, and the brave men and women who fight for us on the battlefield, have been mired in a seemingly unwinnable war in Afghanistan, a war that has resulted in tens of thousands of casualties, and the death of 1,723 American service members. More and more Americans are expressing a desire to end the war in Afghanistan. Recent polls have shown that 73% of Americans want to withdraw troops, and 66% of all veterans believe the war is not worth its cost. There is no better time than now, on the 10th anniversary of this war, to reevaluate the continued conflict, and to commit to bringing our troops home.

It is irresponsible to continue to spend over one hundred billion dollars a year on a war that Americans support less and less each day, especially as our country tries to fight its way out of the worst economic recession of our lifetimes. This is money that is desperately needed domestically, and would be better spent on fixing our deteriorating infrastructure and fixing our education system.

Our mission after September 11th 2001 was to dismantle the infrastructure of al-Qaeda and to bring Osama bin Laden to justice, and there is no denying that the current administration and our courageous men and women serving overseas have accomplished these goals. It is time to bring our troops home, reinvest in our nation, and let the Afghani people take responsibility for securing their own nation.

I believe the time to withdraw from Afghanistan is now, which is why I joined my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in support of H.R. 651, the United States-Afghanistan Status of Forces Agreement Act of 2011 which would establish a redeployment date for U.S. troops. I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress, the President, and commanders in our Armed Forces to press for a speedier end to this war. I yield back the balance of my time.

EQUAL JUSTICE FOR OUR
MILITARY ACT OF 2011

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Equal Justice for Our Military Act of 2011—a bill that will give our servicemembers equal access to the United States Supreme Court.

We all know that when American men and women decide to serve their nation in the Armed Forces, they make many sacrifices—from lost time with their families to irreplaceable losses of lives and limbs.

However, most Americans are not aware that active-duty servicemembers also sacrifice one of the fundamental legal rights that all civilian Americans enjoy.

Under current law, members of the military who are convicted of offenses under the military justice system do not have the legal right to appeal their cases to the U.S. Supreme Court.

It is unjust to deny the members of our Armed Forces access to our system of justice as they fight for our freedom around the world.

They deserve better.

As the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, a long-time advocate for servicemembers, and a representative of San Diego, one of the largest military communities in the nation, I feel an obligation to fight to ensure that the members of our military are treated fairly.

Current law weights the playing field in favor of the government, granting the automatic right to Supreme Court review to the Department of Defense whenever a servicemember wins his or her case, but denying servicemembers that same right when the government wins a conviction against them in almost all situations. This is just unfair.

I believe strongly that it is fundamentally unjust to deny those who serve on behalf of our country in the military one of the basic rights afforded to all other Americans.

I hope that you will stand with me in support of this legislation to attain equal treatment for those who fight for us.

IN HONOR OF 2011 USO GALA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 2011 United Service Organizations (USO) Gala, as it honors the Spirit of the USO Award Recipient, Spirit of Hope Award Recipient, heroes from the U.S. Armed Forces, and the volunteers who support them around the world.

The United Service Organizations, in its 70th year of existence, is a non-profit organization which endeavors to offer comfort and hope to the United States armed forces, both at home and abroad. With more than 150 centers worldwide, the USO offers support to millions of Americans.

When it began during World War II, the USO provided support to the troops in a number of different ways, most famously through the entertainment of the troops while away from home. Though initially dissolved in 1947, it was revived during the Korean War and has been an active organization ever since. "Bringing a touch of home to our troops," the USO continues to do good, boosting the morale of our troops at home and abroad, thanks to donations and volunteers.

The legacy of the USO is continuous and expansive. For current service members at home and abroad, veterans and for the families of the fallen, the USO provides millions of men and women with care. Its various programs provide a wide range of services for service members, including games, care packages, the "mobile USO," free phone cards and a program which enables those stationed abroad to record a DVD of themselves for their family members. In addition to all of this, the USO continues its celebrity tours, providing entertainment to the troops.

The 2011 USO Gala, "70 Years Young," will feature entertainers from USO celebrity entertainment tours, and recognize a special volunteer and honorees from each branch of the armed force. This year's Service Member's of the Year include Corporal David J. Bixler of the U.S. Army; Sergeant Lucas J. Chaffins of the U.S. Marine Corps, Senior Airman James A. Barynard of the U.S. Airforce, Aviation Survival Technician Christopher R. Austin of the U.S. Coast Guard, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Chad R. Regelin of the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the USO does for the men and women who risk so much for us.

H.R. 2250 AND H.R. 2681

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, the American people can breathe easier—well, perhaps that's the wrong choice of words—the American people should be thankful to the leadership of the House for pursuing the pollution agenda they have clamored for these many months.

After legislative successes that have included begrudgingly passing Continuing Resolutions to fund government operations, the House turned this week to the top national priority of relaxing pollution controls for cement kilns and hamstringing the EPA's ability to crack down on harmful emissions from industrial boilers.

I wonder why it has taken so long to get these critical bills to the floor. In my district on Long Island, I'm often mobbed by constituents demanding more mercury in our air. And clearly economists agree it's the silver bullet we need to jumpstart the economic recovery.

Perhaps the majority believes that clean air is choking our recovery and the economy is drowning in drinkable water.

But, in all seriousness, we are pursuing this pollution agenda while failing to deal with the real issues stifling job growth, things like a shortage of credit for small businesses, unfair currency manipulation by China and stagnant consumer demand.

So, Mr. Speaker, how about instead of passing a bill to make it easier for cement kilns to pollute, let's do something real, like put construction workers to work using cement to rebuild our nation's infrastructure.

COMMEMORATING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE KENYAN CONSTITUTION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, last August we witnessed a flowering of freedom in Eastern Africa. On August 5, 2010, Kenya endorsed a brand new constitution, which guaranteed all Kenyan citizens the rights to security, housing, food, life, freedom from discrimination and the freedom of expression, among others. I rise

today to recognize the recent anniversary of this constitution's adoption, and to congratulate the Republic of Kenya on this remarkable step forward.

Despite being home to the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize—Wangari Maathai, who sadly passed away last month—Kenya had long treated women as second-class citizens. In the past, female candidates for office in that country have had to carry knives and wear extra garments to fend off the possibility of politically-motivated rape.

But the new constitution has dramatically altered the status of women in Kenya. Among the over 40 new reforms is a non-discrimination clause outlawing bias on the basis of sex, pregnancy or marital status. Additionally, women can own and inherit land, and matrimonial property is protected during and after the termination of marriage. Customary law (a traditional practice that has come to be accepted as law), which is inconsistent with the constitution, is now void.

This document does much to protect the rights of women within Kenya. But as anyone who lives in a democracy knows, such constitutional mechanisms must be followed by meaningful actions and constant vigilance to actually become reality.

The nation of Kenya is facing many trials at the moment. The crisis in the Horn of Africa is killing, starving or displacing over 13 million people. Drought conditions have persisted in the region. Food insecurity is affecting 3.75 million people, excluding refugees, in Kenya, and 4.3 million men, women, and children there desperately require humanitarian assistance. At its peak, Kenya and Ethiopia saw nearly 1,000 people a day arrive at refugee camps to escape the famine in Somalia. Sexual violence against women in these already overcrowded refugee camps is on the rise.

There are no easy solutions to this crisis, and we in the United States must step up and do our part to help alleviate this suffering as well. Nonetheless, in face of these adversities, it is heartening to see Kenya's men and women move forward together, as equals and as partners. By empowering Kenyan women and rejecting gender-based discrimination, the new Kenyan constitution has paved the way for a brighter future for the Kenyan people.

IN HONOR OF HIS BEATITUDE PATRIARCH BECHARA PETER RAI, PATRIARCH OF ANTIOCH FOR THE MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of His Beatitude Patriarch Bechara Peter Rai, Patriarch of Antioch for the Maronite Catholic Church, and welcome him to the City of Cleveland on October 11th, 2011.

With more than three million members worldwide, the Maronite Catholic Church is among the largest Eastern-rite sects of the Roman Catholic Church and is especially prominent in Lebanon. The parish of Cleveland's St. Maron Church will be hosting Patriarch Rai as he visits Cleveland next week. St.